

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 10-15 are pending. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended. No new matter has been presented.

Claims 1, 5 and 10-13 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugano, JP 63136687, in view of Goto, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/001327. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to clarify that each of the markers has corners at both ends in the first direction and adjacent markers point-contact with each other at only one point at their ends.

On the other hand, Sugano's adjacent 'C' spaces do not point-contact with each other at only one point at their ends. Goto also fails to teach or suggest this feature. Thus, the combination of Sugano and Goto fails to teach or suggest the features of claims 1 or 5. Claims 10-13 are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies. Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 14-15 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugano and Goto in view of Ohbuchi, U.S. Patent No. 6,611,542. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

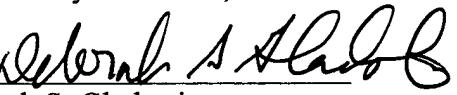
Claims 14-15 are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies and further in view of Ohbuchi's failure to overcome the deficiencies of Sugano and Goto. Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 259052003300.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Deborah S. Gladstein

Registration No.: 43,636
MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP
1650 Tysons Blvd, Suite 400
McLean, Virginia 22102
(703) 760-7753